

Amendments to the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A *S. clavuligerus* microorganism comprising DNA from which SEQ ID NO:1 has been disrupted or deleted corresponding to one or more open reading frames essential for 5S clavam biosynthesis, wherein said open reading frames are disrupted or deleted such that the production of 5S clavams by said *S. clavuligerus* is reduced and clavulanic acid production is at least maintained when compared with a *S. clavuligerus* parent strain comprising SEQ ID NO:1 which has not had the relevant open reading frames been disrupted or deleted, wherein the open reading frames are selected from:

- a) *evm6para* (SEQ ID NO:1);
- b) *evm7para* (SEQ ID NO:2);
- c) *evm6para* and *evm6* (SEQ ID NO:5); and
- d) *evm7para* and *evm7* (SEQ ID NO:6).

2 (Currently Amended) A *S. clavuligerus* microorganism comprising DNA from which SEQ ID NO:1 and one or more of: SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, and SEQ ID NO:11 have been disrupted or deleted corresponding to one or more open reading frames essential for 5S clavam biosynthesis, wherein said open reading frames are disrupted or deleted such that the production of 5S clavams by said *S. clavuligerus* is reduced and clavulanic acid production is at least maintained when compared with a *S. clavuligerus* parent strain which has not had the relevant said open reading frames disrupted or deleted, wherein the open reading frames are selected from:

- a) *evm6para* and one or more of *evm1* (SEQ ID NO:7), *evm2* (SEQ ID NO:8), *evm3* (SEQ ID NO:9), *evm4* (SEQ ID NO:10), *evm5* (SEQ ID NO:11), *evm6*, *evm7* or *evm7para*;
- b) *evm7para* and one or more of *evm1*, *evm2*, *evm3*, *evm4*, *evm5*, *evm6*, *evm7* or *evm6para*.

Claims 3-20: Cancelled.